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DPS-5661 ✓

5 December 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director of Development & Procurement, DPS/DCI

**THROUGH** : Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

**SUBJECT** : Contracting Authority

**REFERENCES** : A. Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, dated 3 December 1958, Subject "Approvals Procedures" DPS-6007  
B. Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, dated 28 Nov. 1958, Subject "Approvals Procedures" DPS-5812  
C. Administrative Memorandum No. 104

1. I concur in the recommendations of [ ] and yourself in references A. and B. and am ready to sign reference C. I note, however, that one of the recommendations in reference B is that I obtain from the DCI a revised grant of authority. I feel we should take this step. Accordingly, would you take this as my request that you prepare a memorandum to me from the DCI which would give me the necessary authority to redelegate approving officer authority. I have not recently reviewed the 7 January 1955 Project Outline and therefore have only a vague idea of what the memorandum from the Director to me should contain. I make the following suggestions, however:

a. It should be very brief, deal only with the specific matter of approving officer authority and not purport to be a revised project outline.

b. It should cover the procedure for approving: (1) development tasks, programs, or projects, and (2) contract awards and amendments. It should remain silent concerning approvals based on or embodied in such documents as invoices, requests for progress payments, payment plans, etc. unless there is some specific reason for dealing with this matter.

c. With respect to approvals of development projects and/or contracts, I believe the basic requirements should be that I approve (1) requisitions which

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activate new development, (2) contracts and contract amendments which significantly change funds obligations,

[REDACTED]

It should also be stipulated, however, that up to some reasonable break-off point these authorities can be delegated to my deputy. It would seem to me that the point chosen should be not less than [REDACTED] and possibly no more than [REDACTED] since any larger delegation would be completely inconsistent with the arrangements now in effect in the whole DD/P area. I am, however, very open-minded on this point.

2. I think we must all have in mind in preparing this delegation authority that the DPS will soon be one of a number of components for which I will have responsibility and that the senior officer in DPS who reports directly to me will be the equivalent of a Division Chief in DD/P. I do not for a moment mean to suggest that DPS should become subject to all established DD/P procedures, rules and arrangements, but I believe in so specific a matter as redelegation authority we would be inviting trouble to depart too far from the already reasonably liberalized pattern of the DD/P.

3. I will be glad to discuss this further if necessary but would urge all reasonable haste in preparing the document herein requested and securing a sign-off thereon from the General Counsel and others as appropriate.

*7/6/62*  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Development

Attachments:  
Refs. A.B. & C  
DPS-5984

SA/PD/DCI:RMB:djm  
O-w/Atts - Addressee  
1-Dep. Dir. DPS/DCI  
1-Contracting Offr, DPS/DCI  
✓ 1-SA/PD/DCI Chrono

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